

*Official Languages*

strongly regardless of its legality or even of its righteousness in the opinion of the minority. For this reason, the manner in which the act is administered becomes all important. I strongly suggest the government could help toward the better administration of these provisions by appointing a member to the board from each province. The provincial members could act as watchdogs; they could help the board by setting guidelines. I do not know whether or not this experiment will succeed. This is an issue which will be with us for many years, indeed, for the lifetime of many of us in this chamber. I urge the government to consider seriously the amendment which the hon. member for Cardigan (Mr. McQuaid) has put forward, believing that if adopted it would go some little way toward improving the bill and making it more acceptable to people in various parts of Canada.

**Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River):** Mr. Speaker, I want you to fully understand that I support this amendment presented by my hon. friend from Cardigan (Mr. McQuaid). I was disappointed in the statement by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) this afternoon as to the degree of consideration he felt he could give to our amendments at this time in the light of the committee's recommendations. If this is the practice which is to be followed, if the government is unwilling to accept any amendments after a report has been made by a committee, then I suggest that debates here in this chamber are no more than an exercise in futility.

The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) told us that the outcome of this legislation would depend upon the goodwill and good sense of the governments who administer it. He referred particularly to the advisory board. He was treading on safe ground there. It was rather like coming out in favour of motherhood. After all, what government or business is not better served when intelligent people administer its affairs? But following his argument through, the implication is that we could do away with many of the safeguards we possess.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I realize that there would still be robberies and murders whether we had a police force or not, but most of us still believe we should have laws and means to enforce them in society as it is today. Representation of the provinces on this board is, or should be, one of the most important features in this bill. If we do not accept the amendment put forward by my hon. friend

[Mr. Ritchie.]

and fail to give each province and territory in Canada representation, we shall find ourselves contributing to regionalism and even to separatism.

In the past the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has come out in favour of the one nation concept. He has declared himself in favour of a just society. There has been some doubt as to the character of the one nation or of the just society, but it is difficult to imagine what benefit would result from lumping Canada together in regions, perhaps giving the prairie provinces one representative or giving other regions more than that. Certainly, the rejection of this amendment would only assist greatly in the cause of those who would divide the country. It would definitely bring on more regionalism than we have at present.

● (7:20 p.m.)

One of the members in the course of the debate quoted from Volume I of the B and B commission report. Let me quote from page 109 of Volume I of that same report as follows:

If we chose the census division as the basis for creating a bilingual district, all of division A would likely become bilingual, and all of division B would remain unilingual.

There is a graph on this page to which the report refers. It continues:

Our diagram shows that most of the members of the minority live in one section of division A and in the adjacent part of division B. Should official bilingualism be imposed on the unilingual parts of the former, and the bilingual fraction of the latter be ignored? We do not think so. In such a case, all of the area marked in black, excluding the rest of divisions A and B should become one bilingual district.

In effect, this shows it would not only be possible to set up bilingual districts with a 10 per cent minority but it would be possible to set up an adjacent bilingual district with a possible two or three per cent minority group. I think this is one weakness which certainly deserves consideration. Certainly, when we could have bilingual areas as small as school districts, being two or three per cent of the total area, it would be possible to have adjoining school district areas on a bilingual basis in other provinces. These would then become a provincial concern because education is within provincial jurisdiction. In light of this fact, it would seem almost impossible to even entertain the thought of not giving every province representation on this board.